United Nations A/C.2/73/L.53

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
27 November 2018

Original: English

**Seventy-third session**

**Second Committee**

Agenda item 20 (b)

**Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.14**

# Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway)[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.



Please recycle

Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

*Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7]

*Reaffirming further* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for the implementation of, inter alia, the Samoa Pathway and called upon the entities of the development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development,

*Reaffirming further* its resolution 72/279 of 1 June 2018, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda,

*Recalling* its resolutions 72/217 of 20 December 2017, 72/307 of 27 July 2018, and all relevant previous resolutions,[8]

*Recalling also* the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[9] and recognizing that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development in small island developing States,

---

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] See resolutions 70/202, 69/288, 69/217 and 69/15.

[9] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

*Reaffirming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[10]

*Welcoming* the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: SIDS perspective", held in New York on 11 July 2018,

*Reaffirming* that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

*Recognizing* climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters,

*Acknowledging* that climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability,

*Welcoming* the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

*Looking forward* to the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

*Taking note* of the important relationship between the ocean and climate change, which include the Ocean Pathway initiative, launched on the margins of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

*Reiterating* the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

*Reaffirming* that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, and reaffirming also that healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and

[10] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States,

*Recognizing* the importance of water and sanitation for sustainable development, especially in atoll nations, to address the range of issues around sea level rise, salt water intrusion and changes in rainfall patterns, and in this regard acknowledging the launch by the General Assembly of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028,

*Recognizing also* that health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, all three dimensions of sustainable development and that the Samoa Pathway calls for policies and programmes to ensure better health, and recognizing also the need for the prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for quality essential health-care services while also reducing the health-related impacts resulting from natural and man-made disasters in small island developing States,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the progress made, including through the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and the third annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 July 2018, as well as the importance and progress of the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, and the need for its continued coherence with the Partnership Framework,

*Recognizing* that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships,

*Recognizing also* that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

*Noting* the decline in correspondent banking relationships experienced by many small island developing States, and looking forward in this regard to the continuing consideration of this issue in forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates,

*Recognizing* the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation,

*Reaffirming* the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[13]

[13] A/73/226.

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings", prepared pursuant to resolution 69/288 of 8 June 2015;[14]

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the small island developing States units of the Secretariat", submitted pursuant to resolution 72/217;[15]

4. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[5] and urges its speedy, full and effective implementation, as well as effective monitoring, follow-up and review;

5. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

7. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway and set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[16] as well as the outcome documents of all related United Nations conferences and processes, and, recognizing the interlinkages between them, urges consideration of these interlinkages through their implementation;

8. *Also recalls* paragraph 6 of resolution 72/217, notes that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall devote adequate time at its 2019 meeting and at its future meetings to continuing to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages the high-level political forum to devote sufficient attention to these discussions, bearing in mind that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development, as well as to lessons learned from the follow-up and review processes of previous conferences on small island developing States and their outcome documents;

9. *Reiterates* the call, made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action",[17] for action to be taken, on an urgent basis, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and urges its implementation, while recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and therefore urges the fulfilment of these commitments;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts to implement the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, and encourages its continued implementation in all small island developing States regions to address challenges related to food security and nutrition, including through, inter alia, the

[14] See A/72/119 and A/72/119/Add.1.

[15] A/73/345.

[16] Resolution 70/1.

[17] Resolution 71/312, annex.

Interregional Initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels to that effect, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

12. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure its effective follow-up and implementation;

13. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system to mainstream, within the realm of their mandates, the Samoa Pathway into their respective strategic plans and frameworks, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to make available sufficient and predictable resources for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and encourages international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

15. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen their cooperation on building resilience and on enhancing action with regard to adaptation to climate change;

17. *Recognizes* progress made in collecting disaster-related data and that the data and analysis from the Sendai Framework monitor, as well as the outcomes of the 2019 session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, are contributions to the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, and further recognizes that the development of national climate change adaptation strategies and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 is an opportunity to maximize synergies and the shared use of data sets and risk assessments;

18. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

19. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

20. *Recognizes* that gender inequality remains a challenge for small island developing States, and recognizes further the need to continue efforts to further

promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

21. *Underscores* the important role of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in supporting small island developing States, in accordance with their respective mandates, including those under the Samoa Pathway and other intergovernmentally agreed documents and resolutions, recognizes their improved coordination and collaboration, and urges the continued leveraging of their complementary strengths in carrying out their annual workplans and related activities;

22. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative to support the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States and to enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and improve communication and consultation with Member States;

23. *Recommends* that the United Nations system continue to work towards ensuring that the activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States, within the mandate of each entity, are aligned with the priorities of those States and take into consideration any existing and national and regional enabling mechanisms facilitating policy coherence and consolidating resource mobilization;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, and urges the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States and support the strengthening of the effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes;

25. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard urges the international community and United Nations system, in particular the United Nations development system, to continue their support to small island developing States in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, in line with provisions of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate to national contexts, with a view to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

26. *Urges* United Nations system entities to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all development partners so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of small island developing States at the country level;

27. *Requests* United Nations system entities, including the international financial institutions, to actively contribute, within their respective mandates, to addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including through a more holistic approach so as to enable better access to financing for small island developing States;

28. *Reiterates* the request to the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/243 and in line with paragraph 4 of resolution 72/279, to

conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with the countries involved, to improve the contribution of the offices to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, to be presented to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session;

29. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a one-day high-level review at United Nations Headquarters in September 2019, to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, which will result in a concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed political declaration, and in this regard recalls its decision 72/559, in which it decided to transmit the draft decision to hold the high-level review on 27 September 2019 to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session for action, requests the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meeting, and encourages Governments and the United Nations system to attend the high-level review at the highest possible level;

30. *Welcomes* the convening of the regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in Belize, Mauritius and Tonga, as well as the interregional meeting for all small island developing States, held in Samoa, in order to undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway at the national and regional levels, and takes note of their outcomes;

31. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the small island developing States in the high-level review process, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review processes;

32. *Welcomes* the establishment of the network of small island developing States national focal points, which is aimed at providing a vital link between the global, regional, and national levels to facilitate coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, further welcomes the convening of the inaugural meeting of the small island developing States national focal points on 29 October 2018, in Apia, on the sidelines of the interregional preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages all small island developing States to participate in the network in order to further the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

33. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Office of the High Representative have significantly expanded;

34. *Notes with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General, by 2020, within existing resources, to ensure the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States, and looks forward to the update by the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the alignment of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the 2030 Agenda;

36. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the agenda item on follow-up to and

implementation of the Samoa Pathway, information on what has been done to address the needs resulting from the expanded mandates given to the small island developing States units in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

37. *Reiterates its request* in resolution 72/307 that the Secretary-General submit a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, making it available, on an exceptional basis, in early 2019, following the regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the high-level review, so that it can serve to support the intergovernmental consultations and be considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", unless otherwise agreed.